

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for displaying patent marking information, the method comprising:

programmatically detecting one or more resources coupled to or comprised in a computer system;

retrieving, from a memory medium, patent marking information corresponding to each of said one or more resources based on said programmatically detecting, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more resources; and

displaying said patent marking information on a display device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware devices coupled to the computer system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more software programs installed on the computer system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware configuration programs configured on a programmable hardware element of a hardware device coupled to or comprised in the computer system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein said one or more resources each stores patent marking information; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more resources.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein said one or more resources each stores identification (ID) information which identifies the respective resource;

wherein said detecting comprises retrieving said ID information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information is performed based on said ID information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from a patent marking database comprised in the computer system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
updating said patent marking database periodically.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
updating said patent marking database when resources are detected whose patent marking information is not stored in said patent marking database.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from a database comprised in a server computer, wherein the server computer is coupled to the computer system via a network.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said displaying said patent marking information further comprises displaying said ID information for each resource.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information on a computer display for a specified period of time.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information on a computer display when said detection occurs for the first time.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said patent marking information on a computer display is performed in a periodic manner.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said patent marking information on a computer display comprises displaying said patent marking information in a Graphical User Interface (GUI) presented on said computer display.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said displaying said patent marking information in a Graphical User Interface comprises:

displaying said patent marking information in a pop-up dialog box, wherein said pop-up dialog box is operable to close upon receiving user input.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying patent marking information for a first resource of said one or more resources when a user moves a cursor over an icon corresponding to said first resource.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying the patent marking information for each resource proximate to the respective icon of each resource.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by a configuration software program executing on the computer system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by an operating system executing on the computer system.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed upon one or more of:

a change in the one or more resources coupled to or comprised in the computer system; and

a change of user of the computer system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said change of user comprises one or both of:

a user logging onto the computer system for the first time; and

a first user logging off of the computer system followed by a second user logging onto the computer system.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting one or more resources comprises:

executing “plug and play” software to detect the one or more resources.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

a computer system, comprising:

a memory which is operable to store program instructions;

a processor coupled to said memory; and

a display coupled to said processor and to said memory; and

one or more resources coupled to or comprised in the computer system;

wherein said program instructions are executable by said processor to perform:

detecting said one or more resources;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more resources based on said detecting, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more resources; and

displaying said patent marking information on said display.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more of:

one or more hardware devices coupled to the computer system; and

one or more software programs installed on the computer system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware configuration programs configured on a programmable hardware element of a hardware device coupled to or comprised in the computer system.

27. (Original) The system of claim 24,

wherein said one or more resources each comprise patent marking information;
and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more resources.

28. (Original) The system of claim 24,

wherein said one or more resources each includes identification (ID) information which identifies the respective resource;

wherein said detecting comprises retrieving said ID information; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information is performed based on said ID information.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28,
wherein said memory further stores a patent marking database; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising:
a server computer coupled to the computer system via a network, wherein said server computer stores a database of patent marking information;
wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said database comprised in the server computer.

31. (Original) The system of claim 24,
wherein said program instructions are further executable to implement a Graphical User Interface (GUI), wherein said GUI is presented on said display; and
wherein said displaying said patent marking information on said display comprises displaying said patent marking information in said GUI presented on said display.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31,
wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:
displaying patent marking information for a first resource of said one or more resources when a user moves a cursor over an icon corresponding to said first resource.

33. (Original) The system of claim 24,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying the patent marking information for each resource proximate to the respective icon of each resource.

34. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said program instructions are comprised in a configuration software program, and wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by the configuration software program executing on the computer system.

35. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said program instructions are comprised in an operating system executing on the computer system, and wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by said operating system.

36. (Currently Amended) A memory medium which is operable to store program instructions, wherein said program instructions are executable by a processor to perform:

detecting one or more resources coupled to or comprised in a computer system;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more resources based on said detecting, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more resources; and

displaying said patent marking information on a display.

37. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware devices coupled to the computer system.

38. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more software programs installed on the computer system.

39. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware configuration programs configured on a programmable hardware element of a hardware device coupled to or comprised in the computer system.

40. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36,
wherein said one or more resources each stores patent marking information; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more resources.

41. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36,
wherein said one or more resources each stores identification (ID) information which identifies the respective resource;
wherein said detecting comprises retrieving said ID information; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information is performed based on said ID information.

42. (Original) The memory medium of claim 41,
wherein said memory medium further stores a patent marking database; and
wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database.

43. (Original) The memory medium of claim 42, wherein said program instructions are further executable to perform:
updating said patent marking database periodically.

44. (Original) The memory medium of claim 42, wherein said program instructions are further executable to perform:

updating said patent marking database when resources are detected whose patent marking information is not stored in said patent marking database.

45. (Original) The memory medium of claim 41, wherein said program instructions are further executable to perform:

accessing a server computer coupled to the computer system via a network, wherein said server computer stores a database of patent marking information;

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said database comprised in the server computer.

46. (Original) The memory medium of claim 41, wherein said displaying said patent marking information further comprises displaying said ID information for each resource.

47. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information for a specified period of time.

48. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information when said detection occurs for the first time.

49. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36,

wherein said program instructions are further executable to implement a Graphical User Interface (GUI), wherein said GUI is displayed on said display; and

wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information in said GUI.

50. (Original) The memory medium of claim 49, wherein said displaying said patent marking information in a Graphical User Interface comprises:

displaying said patent marking information in a pop-up dialog box, wherein said pop-up dialog box is operable to close upon receiving user input.

51. (Original) The memory medium of claim 49,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying patent marking information for a first resource of said one or more resources when a user moves a cursor over an icon corresponding to said first resource.

52. (Original) The memory medium of claim 49,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more resources, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying the patent marking information for each resource proximate to the respective icon of each resource.

53. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said program instructions are comprised in a configuration software program, and wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by the configuration software program executing on the computer system.

54. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said program instructions are comprised in an operating system executing on the computer system, and wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed by said operating system.

55. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said detecting one or more resources comprises:

executing “plug and play” software to detect the one or more resources.

56. (Original) The memory medium of claim 36, wherein said detecting, said retrieving, and said displaying are performed upon one or more of:

a change in the one or more resources coupled to or comprised in the computer system; and

a change of user of the computer system.

57. (Original) The memory medium of claim 56, wherein said change of user comprises one or both of:

a user logging onto the computer system for the first time; and

a first user logging off of the computer system followed by a second user logging onto the computer system.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer based method for displaying patent marking information, the method comprising:

receiving user input to purchase one or more software products from an e-commerce server, wherein the user input is received over a network;

downloading the one or more software products to a computer system from the e-commerce server over the network;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding to each of said one or more software products based on the user input, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software products; and

displaying said patent marking information on a display device.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

installing said one or more software products prior to said retrieving.

60. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving patent marking information corresponding to each of said one or more software products comprises:

retrieving identification (ID) information from each of said one or more software products; and

retrieving patent marking information corresponding to each of said one or more software products based on said ID information.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein said displaying said patent marking information further comprises displaying said ID information for each software product.

62. (Original) The method of claim 58,

wherein said one or more software products each comprises patent marking information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more software products.

63. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from a database comprised in the computer system.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from a database comprised in the e-commerce server.

65. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from a database comprised in a second different server computer, wherein the second server computer is coupled to the computer system via a network.

66. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said one or more software products comprises a hardware configuration program for configuring a programmable hardware element comprised in a hardware device coupled to the computer system.

67. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises displaying said patent marking information on a computer display for a period of time.

68. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said displaying said patent marking information on a computer display comprises displaying said patent marking information in a Graphical User Interface (GUI) presented on a computer display.

69. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein said displaying said patent marking information in a Graphical User Interface comprises:

displaying said patent marking information in a pop-up dialog box, wherein said pop-up dialog box is operable to close upon receiving user input.

70. (Original) The method of claim 68,

wherein said GUI is operable to display icons corresponding to said one or more software products, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying patent marking information for a first software product of said one or more software products when a user moves a cursor over an icon corresponding to said first software product.

71. (Original) The method of claim 68,

wherein said GUI includes one or more icons corresponding to said one or more software products, wherein said displaying said patent marking information comprises:

displaying the patent marking information for each software product proximate to the respective icon of each software product.

72. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving and said displaying are performed by a configuration software program executing on the computer system.

73. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said retrieving and said displaying are performed by an operating system executing on the computer system.

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~75~~ 58, wherein said receiving user input further comprises:

providing payment information to said e-commerce server, wherein said payment information is usable to purchase said one or more software products.

77. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein said one or more software products includes one or more of:

an application program;
a driver program; and
a hardware configuration program.

78. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

ordering one or more hardware products prior to said downloading;
wherein at least one of said one or more software products comprises configuration information for at least one of said one or more hardware products.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78, wherein said at least one of said one or more hardware products comprises a programmable hardware element, and wherein said configuration information comprises a hardware configuration program for said programmable hardware element.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said ordering said one or more hardware products prior to said downloading comprises:

- accessing the e-commerce server over the network; and
- indicating said one or more hardware products.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said ordering said one or more hardware products prior to said downloading further comprises:

- providing payment information to said e-commerce server, wherein said payment information is usable to purchase said one or more hardware products.

82. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

- a computer system, comprising:

- a memory which is operable to store patent marking software and one or more software programs;

- a processor coupled to said memory; and

- a display coupled to said processor and to said memory;

- wherein said patent marking software is executable by said processor to perform:

- detecting said one or more software programs;

- retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more software programs in response to said detecting, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software programs; and

- displaying said patent marking information on said display.

83. (Original) The system of claim 82,

wherein each of said one or more software programs includes patent marking information;

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said one or more software programs.

84. (Original) The system of claim 82,

wherein said memory is further operable to store a patent marking database;

wherein each of said one or more software programs includes identification (ID) information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises:

retrieving said ID information from each of said one or more software programs; and

retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database based on said ID information.

85. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

a computer system, comprising:

a memory which is operable to store patent marking software and one or more software programs;

a processor coupled to said memory; and

a display coupled to said processor and to said memory; and

a server computer coupled to the computer system via a network, wherein said server computer stores a patent marking database;

wherein said patent marking software is executable by said processor to perform:

detecting said one or more software programs, wherein said detecting comprises identifying each of said one or more software programs;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more software programs from said patent marking database in response to said identifying, wherein the patent marking information comprises information

identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software programs; and

displaying said patent marking information on said display.

86. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

a computer system, comprising:

a memory which is operable to store patent marking software;

a processor coupled to said memory; and

a display coupled to said processor and to said memory;

one or more hardware devices coupled to said computer system; and

wherein said patent marking software is executable by said processor to perform:

detecting said one or more hardware devices, wherein said detecting comprises identifying each of said one or more hardware devices;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more hardware devices in response to said identifying, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more hardware devices; and

displaying said patent marking information on said display.

87. (Original) The system of claim 86,

wherein each of said one or more hardware devices stores patent marking information;

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said one or more hardware devices.

88. (Original) The system of claim 86,

wherein said memory is further operable to store a patent marking database;

wherein each of said one or more hardware devices stores identification (ID) information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises:
retrieving said ID information from each of said one or more hardware devices; and
retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database based on said ID information.

89. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

means for receiving user input to purchase one or more software products from an e-commerce server, wherein the user input is received over a network;

means for downloading the one or more software products from the e-commerce server computer system to a host computer system over the network;

means for retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more software products based on the user input, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software products; and

means for displaying said patent marking information.

90. (Original) The system of claim 89,

wherein said one or more software products each comprise patent marking information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more software products.

91. (Original) The system of claim 89,

wherein said one or more software products each includes identification (ID) information which identifies the respective resource;

wherein said detecting comprises retrieving said ID information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information is performed based on said ID information.

92. (Currently Amended) A memory medium which is operable to store program instructions, wherein said program instructions are executable by a processor to perform:

receiving user input to purchase one or more software products from an e-commerce server, wherein the user input is received over a network;

downloading the one or more software products from the e-commerce server to a host computer system;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more software products based on the user input, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software products; and

displaying said patent marking information on a display.

93. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

a computer system, comprising:

a memory which is operable to store patent marking software;

a processor coupled to said memory; and

a display coupled to said processor and to said memory;

one or more hardware devices coupled to said computer system; and

a server computer coupled to the computer system via a network, wherein said server computer stores a patent marking database;

wherein said patent marking software is executable by said processor to perform:

detecting said one or more hardware devices, wherein said detecting comprises identifying each of said one or more hardware devices;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more hardware devices from said patent marking database in response to said identifying, wherein the patent marking information comprises information

identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more hardware devices;
and

displaying said patent marking information on said display.

94. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

means for detecting one or more resources coupled to or comprised in a computer system;

means for retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more resources based on said detecting, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more resources; and

means for displaying said patent marking information.

95. (Original) The system of claim 94, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware devices coupled to the computer system.

96. (Original) The system of claim 94, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more software programs installed on the computer system.

97. (Original) The system of claim 94, wherein said one or more resources comprise one or more hardware configuration programs configured on a programmable hardware element of a hardware device coupled to or comprised in the computer system.

98. (Original) The system of claim 94,

wherein said one or more resources each comprise patent marking information;
and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information respectively from each of said one or more resources.

99. (Original) The system of claim 94,

wherein said one or more resources each includes identification (ID) information which identifies the respective resource;

wherein said detecting comprises retrieving said ID information; and

wherein said retrieving patent marking information is performed based on said ID information.

100. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying patent marking information, the system comprising:

a computer system, comprising:

a memory which is operable to store patent marking software and one or more software programs;

a processor coupled to said memory; and

a display coupled to said processor and to said memory;

wherein said patent marking software is executable by said processor to perform:

receiving user input to purchase one or more software products from an e-commerce server, wherein the user input is received over a network;

downloading said one or more software programs from the e-commerce server;

retrieving patent marking information corresponding respectively to each of said one or more software programs, wherein the patent marking information comprises information identifying patents that are applicable to technology of the one or more software products; and

displaying said patent marking information on said display.

101. (Original) The system of claim 100,

wherein each of said one or more software programs includes patent marking information;

wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises retrieving said patent marking information from said one or more software programs.

102. (Original) The system of claim 100,
 wherein said memory is further operable to store a patent marking database;
 wherein each of said one or more software programs includes identification (ID) information; and
 wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises:
 retrieving said ID information from each of said one or more software programs; and
 retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database based on said ID information.
103. (Original) The system of claim 100,
 wherein said server computer system is operable to store a patent marking database;
 wherein each of said one or more software programs includes identification (ID) information; and
 wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises:
 retrieving said ID information from each of said one or more software programs;
 accessing said server computer system; and
 retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database based on said ID information.
104. (Original) The system of claim 100, further comprising:
 a patent marking information server computer system coupled to said computer system via a network;
 wherein said patent marking information server computer system stores a patent marking database;
 wherein each of said one or more software programs includes identification (ID) information; and
 wherein said retrieving patent marking information comprises:

retrieving said ID information from each of said one or more software programs;
accessing said patent marking information server computer system; and
retrieving said patent marking information from said patent marking database based on said ID information.